

# Memorandum

Date: OCT 11 2002

To: Paul Marshall  
Bay Delta Office  
Department of Water Resources

From: Philip G. Wendt, Chief  
Office of Water Quality  
Department of Water Resources

Subject: Notice of Preparation for the South Delta Improvements Program  
Environmental Impact Report / Environmental Impact Statement

The Department of Water Resources' Office of Water Quality has received your Notice of Preparation for the South Delta Improvements Program and would like to provide comments regarding the scope of the investigation in relation to drinking water quality.

The OWQ's Municipal Water Quality Investigations Program is charged with monitoring, assessing, and protecting drinking water quality in the Delta. Water quality issues in general are becoming more significant to State Water Project urban stakeholders due to increasing drinking water treatment regulations, loss of potential blending sources, and a growing need to recycle and conserve water.

## Water quality-related comments:

1. Increases in Clifton Court diversions will significantly change the blend of water received at the pumps. Any assessment of potential impacts should look at the resulting potential changes in TDS, salinity, carbon, and nutrient loading into Clifton Court Forebay.
2. The NOP only references State Water Resources Control Board standards and crop protection. A full assessment of impacts to drinking water intakes, including Contra Costa Water District's, should be included for all drinking water parameters of concern.
3. Modeling assessments using existing modeling fingerprinting techniques should show the change over baseline conditions of water sources to Clifton Court and the changes in water quality.

Changes in barrier operations connected with the construction of permanent barriers and channel dredging should be assessed for the same potential water quality impacts listed in items 1-3 above.

  
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Mr. Marshall

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If you have any questions regarding these water quality-related comments on the NOP, please call Rich Breuer, Senior Environmental Scientist, of my staff at (916) 651-9687.